

## James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, December 10, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### SECRETARY MONROE TO JACKSON.

War Department, December 10, 1814.

*Sir*, Intelligence was received yesterday from Cuba on the 9. ultimo, that the British force from this bay, under admiral Cochrane, had united at Jamaica, with other troops, and had sailed, or were on the point of sailing, to make an attack on New Orleans. It is hoped that you will have long since taken a suitable position, on the river to afford complete protection to that City. Mobile is comparatively a trifling object with the British government. Your presence at such a point, on the river, with the main body of your troops will be of vital importance. It will inspire the Inhabitants with confidence, and animate them to vigorous exertions. It will enable you to direct your whole force to the proper points and to make the necessary preparations to meet the enemy, on either pass, and to overwhelm him, wherever he presents himself. All the boasted preparation, which the British government has been making thro' the year, with veteran troops from France and Spain, after having been gloriously foiled, in attacks on other parts of our Union, is about to terminate in a final blow against New Orleans. It will, I hope, close there its inglorious career, in such a repulse as will reflect new honor on the American arms. . . .

[ *Note in margin, in Jackson's handwriting :*] at this date I could not have wielded more than 2500 and neither arms or flints. 7500 flint Pistol was obtained from the Baratarians

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[ *Note on a duplicate copy of the same letter :*] Note first. This communication by express as stated on the envelope from the War Department was received at night on the 18th Feb. 1815. R. Butler, Adj General

*Note second* . The Tennessee troops did not reach New Orleans until 21st of Decem 1814 no arms until they arrived, no flints only what was got from the Baratarians until after the 8th of January 1815

[ *Indorsement on this duplicate in Jackson's handwriting :*] The Sec of War letter of the 10th of December 1814 recd by Genl Jackson on the 18th of February 1815 at Neworleans—note this was the first letter I recd from the Dept, after I reached N.orleans, and the first after those of the 19th and 21st Of octbr 1814, acknowledged by mine of the 20th of Novb. from Mobile—see my answer to that of the 10th of Decbr herewith sent you